

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RECONSTITUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AS COMMITTEE FOR FOOD AID POLICIES
AND PROGRAMS

FODAG

REF: A. ROME 2092

B. STATE 29894

C. ROME 411

SUMMARY - OFFICE OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO AGREES WITH
DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS THAT RECONSTITUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN
MARCH MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. WE BELIEVE MAJOR
U.S. INTEREST ARE TO PRESERVE ESSENTIAL EQUAL BALANCE BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO DEFER ANY GENERAL
RECOMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODY. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, WE EN-
DORSE FORMULA ADVANCED BY WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AQUINO, WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH OPEN-ENDED COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, BUT WOULD CONTINUE PRESENT INTERGOVERN-
MENTAL COMMITTEE AS IS TO BE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY

1. COMPOSITION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD

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PROGRAM IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL AMONG UN AGENCIES IN THAT IT IS COM-

POSED EQUALLY OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - 12 EACH. IF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD GAIN MAJORITY, IT WOULD BE INEVITABLE THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE REDUCED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. THIS FACT IS FULLY APPRECIATED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME WHO WORK WITH FAO AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. IN ROME, THERE HAS BEEN CAREFUL COLLABORATION TO PRESERVE THIS EQUAL BALANCE. THIS CONSIDERATION PROBABLY IS LESS APPRECIATED IN DELEGATIONS TO ECOSOC, WHICH ELECTS HALF THE MEMBERS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (FAO COUNCIL ELECTS OTHER HALF). THIS IS WHY IT IS DESIRABLE TO KEEP INITIATIVE ON RECONSTITUTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE IN ROME.

2. BECAUSE OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO CHANGE COMPOSITION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. RESOLUTION 22 OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, ON FOLLOW-UP ACTION, RECOMMENDS IN PARA 6 THAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE BE RECONSTITUTED AS COMMITTEE OF FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. THIS PERHAPS WAS UNFORTUNATE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO LEAVE THE COMMITTEE AS IT WAS. BUT THIS WAS PROBABLY NOT FEASIBLE. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WANTED MORE OF A ROLE AND WANTED CHANGE IN INSTITUTIONS, AND IT WAS PROBABLY NECESSARY TO RECOMMEND RECONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE. TECHNICALLY, THE WFC RESOLUTION DID NOT CALL FOR A CHANGE IN COMPOSITION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE, BUT A PRACTICAL MATTER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE SURE TO PRESS FOR EXPANDED PARTICIPATION.

3. APART FROM UNUSUAL EQUAL BALANCE OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE IS BADLY OUT OF LINE, PARTLY BECAUSE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN ELECTED IN INCREMENTS BY TWO SEPARATE BODIES - ECOSOC AND FAO. LATIN AMERICAN IS PARTICULAR PROBLEM, WITH ONLY 2 MEMBER COUNTRIES (ARGENTINA AND CHILE) AGAINST 5 AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND 4 ASIAN. IN FAO COUNCIL SESSION IN NOVEMBER 1974 TRINIDAD-TOBAGO WITHDREW UNDER MUCH PRESSURE IN FAVOR OF SAUDI ARABIA, WITH ANNOUNCED EXPECTATION OF CONSIDERATION OF LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE AND SPECIFICALLY TRINIDAD-TOBAGO IN RECONSTITUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. SOCIALIST BLOC HAS ONLY ONE MEMBER (HUNGARY).

4. PLAN OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FRANCISCO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AQUINO (REF C) MAY FALL SHORT OF IDEAL FORMULA, BUT WE BELIEVE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WITHGHT HEAVILY IN ITS FAVOR. IN SUM, HE WOULD RECONSTITUTE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE AS OPEN ENDED COMMITTEE, HOPING THAT NOT EVERYONE WOULD WISH TO PARTICIPATE, BUT PREPARED TO ACCEPT INITIALLY ALL WHO APPLY (LATER BEING MORE DIFFICULT). REAL WORK, HOWEVER, WOULD BE DONE BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD BE IDENTICAL WITH PRESENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. AQUINO IS PERSONALLY COMMITTED

QUITE STRONGLY TO THIS CONCEPT. ADVANTAGE TO US IS THAT IT WOULD BE HE, WELL RESPECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY BLOC, THAT WOULD PRESS FOR THIS FORMULA. WE BELIEVE HE IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO HIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT ANY OTHER SCHEME WOULD OPEN UP MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND DESTROY BALANCE OF DEVELOPED-DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

5. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM TOOK POSITION THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CONVENE OPEN-ENDED MEETING AQUINO PROPOSED TO RECONSTITUTE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE, SESSION IN MARCH. WE FULLY AGREE WITH JUDGMENT REFLECTED IN DEPARTMENT'S AIDE-MEMOIRE (REF B) THAT THIS SIMPLY WILL NOT WASH. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD CERTAINLY RAISE ISSUE, AND RECONSTITUTION WOULD PROCEED ALONG LINES UNFAVORABLE TO U.S. INTERESTS. AS A RESULT OF REPRESENTATION DIRECTED BY DEPARTMENT WE HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT WALDHEIM WAS NOT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO HIS POSITION, BUT WAS SIGNING OFF ON HIS STAFF'S VIEWS, AND HAVE NOTED THAT WALDHEIM AND BOERMA ANNOUNCED IN THEIR PRESS RELEASE OF FEBRUARY 13 THAT FURTHER STAFF DISCUSSION WOULD BE CONDUCTED ON QUESTION OF RECONSTITUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

6. WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT AQUINO'S PROPOSAL IS BEST PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AND RECOMMEND THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IT IN GENERAL TERMS IN CONSULTATIONS WITH UN AGENCIES CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PRESERVING DELICATE BALANCE OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND NOT OPENING UP ANY GENERAL RECONSTITUTING OF DIRECTING AGENCY OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

7. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAYS THAT POSITION ON THIS ISSUE INCLUDED IN NETHERLANDS PAPER ON AGENDA ITEM 5 OF GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION LEVEL XII MEETING WAS HIS OWN PRELIMINARY OFF-CUFF REACTION, TRANSLATED BY HIS GOVERNMENT INTO POSITION PAPER, AND DOES NOT ACTUALLY REFLECT CONSIDERED VIEW OF NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT. VOLPE

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